

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 23, 2003

TO: City Council

FROM: Cynthia Palacio, Solid Waste Program Manager

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 23, 2003 STUDY SESSION—STATUS OF SMaRT STATION®

PURPOSE OF STUDY SESSION

The purpose of this study session is to review the status of the SMaRT Station®, a materials recovery and transfer station serving the Cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale. The SMaRT Station, operated by the City of Sunnyvale, is a cooperative venture among the three cities to reduce operational costs of solid waste management. City of Sunnyvale representatives will update the City Council on recent activities and achievements.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

On October 7, 1991, City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creating a partnership between the Cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale to construct and operate a materials recovery and transfer station in Sunnyvale, the SMaRT Station. The main purpose of the facility is to sort any remaining recyclables from garbage not already captured by city recycling programs and transfer the remaining garbage to Kirby Canyon Landfill in South San Jose. In addition to the MOU among the three cities, each city has a separate long-term landfill agreement with Waste Management, which assures Mountain View of landfill capacity until September 30, 2021.

The City of Sunnyvale is the host city responsible for construction and operation of the station. The SMaRT Station began operation in October 1993, and a new curbside recycling sort line was added in July 2001. The type of recyclables accepted are determined largely by available resale markets.

In Fiscal Year 2002-03, Mountain View delivered approximately 79,000 tons of garbage and recycling to the SMaRT Station through Foothill Disposal Company and public disposal. SMaRT Station recovered approximately 13,000 tons of recyclables from garbage and debris boxes and processed over 17,000 tons of recycling and yard trimmings from Mountain View residences, schools and businesses. Mountain View's 50 percent diversion rate achievement is the result of the City's recycling programs and the SMaRT Station processing of garbage and debris boxes.

Foothill Disposal Company transports garbage, recycling, yard trimmings and debris boxes from residences, schools and businesses to the SMaRT Station for processing. Recyclables and yard trimmings are sold to recycling and composting markets, and the remaining garbage is transferred to the landfill. Locating a transfer facility close to the cities allows drivers more time to collect garbage and less time traveling to remote landfills. In addition, the facility provides a convenient place for public disposal and recycling for residents and businesses. By working together, the three cities are able to share resources and reduce operational costs of solid waste management.

At the SMaRT Station, residents of the three cities may also drop off yard trimmings, recyclables, garbage and unwanted items. Residents may pick up free compost or mulch and receive cash for bottles and cans at the Buy-Back Recycling Center. The facility offers free drop-off of universal wastes such as household and vehicle batteries, fluorescent tubes, used motor oil and filters. There is a small charge to dispose of televisions and computer monitors to cover processing of lead and mercury toxic substances found in these devices.

Attached is "A Report to the Community about the SMaRT Station Cooperative Venture 2001-02" as Attachment 1.

CONCLUSION

The SMaRT Station provides a valuable public service to the community through convenient recycling, disposal and buy-back services, and has contributed to Mountain View's success in achieving the 50 percent diversion rate mandated by the State of California.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

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Attachments: 1. A Report to the Community about the SMaRT Station Cooperative
Venture 2001-02

cc: Mr. Mark Bowers, City of Sunnyvale

Ms. Pam Read, Foothill Disposal

TPM, SWPM